02186

1968/10/16

SANITIZED 49a

Department of State

ACTION COPY

TELEGRAM

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~~SECRET~~

OO RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 40380 2900825
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 160815Z OCT 68 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2621
STATE GRNC
BT
~~S E C R E T~~ SAIGON 40380

CN-5170Q
OCT 16, 1968
4:57 A.M.

NODIS/HARVAN/DOUBLE PLUS

SUBJECT: SECURITY BREACH

1. I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOLLOWING THIEU'S MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, CALLED IN THE AMBASSADORS OF KOREA AND THAILAND, AND THEN THE CHARGES OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE PHILIPPINES, AT 12:00 AND 12:30 RESPECTIVELY, TO REPORT TO THEM AS TROOP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES THAT SOUTH VIET-NAM AND THE UNITED STATES ARE CONSIDERING A BOMBING CESSATION.

2. WHEN THIEU TOLD ME OF THIS I EXPRESSED SHOCK THAT THIS ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN AT THIS JUNCTURE. WHEN THIEU REALIZED THAT THIS ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN PREMATURELY, HE SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT BEING TOLD VERY MUCH, ONLY THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THESE LINES.

3. I SENT BERGER IMMEDIATELY TO TALK TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO CAME OUT OF HIS MEETING WITH THE THREE CHARGES. THANH SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY REVEALED THE INFORMATION AND BERGER ASKED HIM TO INFORM THE CHARGES AND THEN THE AMBASSADORS, THAT THE INFORMATION HE HAD IMPARTED WAS ALREADY KNOWN, AND ONLY KNOWN, TO THEIR HEADS OF STATE. IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THEY DO NOT CABLE THIS INFORMATION TO THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRIES OR OTHER PERSONS IN THE GOVERNMENTS, BUT HOLD IT FOR THE TIME BEING IN VIEW OF THE DELICACY OF THE TALKS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WOULD DO THIS. HE WOULD ALSO CALL THE TWO AMBASSADORS.

4. I FOLLOWED UP BY CALLS TO THE THAI AND ROK AMBASSADORS, BOTH OF WHOM GAVE ME THEIR WORD THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEND ANY MESSAGE. WE ARE SEEING THE THREE CHARGES URGENTLY TO IMPRESS ON THEM THE NEED TO REFRAIN FROM SENDING MESSAGES. [redacted]

[1.3(a)(5)] [redacted]

SANITIZED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 91-478
By jal, NARA, Date 5-1-92

~~SECRET~~

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5. I CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR THIEU'S INSTRUCTION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO CALL IN THE TCC REPRESENTATIVES. AT MY SEVEN O'CLOCK MEETING THIS MORNING HE SAID HE WOULD AT SOME STAGE CALL IN THE TCC REPRESENTATIVES, BUT I NEVER DREAMED THAT HE WOULD MOVE IN THIS FASHION, SINCE I MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT HAVE THE RESULTS OF THE PRIVATE MEETING, AND THAT THE TCC WOULD BE INFORMED AS SOON AS WE DID HAVE THE RESULTS AND WERE TAKING ACTION. I HAD IMPRESSED ON HIM AT EACH MEETING THAT ONLY THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE TCC COUNTRIES HAD BEEN INFORMED OF WHAT WAS GOING ON [1.3(a)(5)] [redacted] AND THAT THE WHOLE MATTER WAS OF THE HIGHEST SENSITIVITY.

6. MANY RUMORS NOW CIRCULATING HERE ABOUT BOMB CESSATION AS A RESULT OF LULL IN THE FIGHTING, RETURN FROM PARIS TO HANOI OF LE DUC THO, EDITOR QUERIES TO LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS DURING LAST TWO DAYS, AND NOW MY SEVEN O'CLOCK AND THEN NOON MEETING WITH THIEU.

ALL THIS TOGETHER WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEAK, MAKES ME WONDER HOW LONG WE WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP SITUATION QUIET. OUR CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR ANY PRESS QUESTIONS WOULD BE TO NOTE THAT THESE ARE ONLY SPECULATIVE RUMORS AND THAT WE HAVE NO COMMENT.

BUNKER
BT

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